Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office action mailed April 25, 2002.

Summary of the Previous Rejections

Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regards as the invention.

Claims 1-5, 11-15, 20 and 22-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,931,907 to Davies et al. ("*Davies*").

Claims 6, 21, 26 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,535 to Fowlow et al. ("*Fowlow*").

Claims 9 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Davies* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,362 to Burfield ("*Burfield*").

Remarks on Newly Added Claims

Claims 32-64 have been added to the application and the previously pending claims 1-31 have been deleted. The newly added claims are intended to present the application in a form better suited for allowance in light of the art cited by the examiner and that accompanying this amendment in an Information Disclosure Statement.

Each of the independent claims 32-64 includes at least one feature not shown in the prior art references. For example, one predominant feature not shown or described in the prior art is that of the application of the invention to "managing the design and building of a construction project" (claim 32) or "a network coupled computer system managing the design and building of a construction project" (claim 45) or "a central database of construction project objects in data communication with the host computer system" (Claim 53) or "a method operating on a host

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computer system coupled to the Internet to manage the design and building of a construction project" (claim 55).

None of the cited references discloses a method or apparatus designed for the particular purpose of the present invention and implemented in the manner of the claimed invention.

Davies in particular, the primary reference used by the examiner in the rejections of the previous claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), shows a distributed agent system. There is no mention of "interface databases" or a "central database" as now claimed.

Fowlow, used by the examiner in the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections, is, as understood, alleged to disclose a computer system executing computer aided design software (paragraph no. 19 on page 6) and as disclosing "data specifying components of a project ot be build" (sic). *Fowlow* is directed to a visual composition tool for construction application programs. The term "construction" as used in the abstract clearly refers to software application program construction, not building construction. The objects and components therein comprise objects for building a piece of application software, not a building project.

Numerous other features are present in the newly added claims which are not present in the prior art.

Yet another novel feature of the invention is the use of "data for the construction project input ay an application program of at least a first type...[and] a second type" (claim 32).

This feature is present in all independent claims:

> Claim 45: "...wherein the first interface database is configured to store first data received
> from the first computer system from application software of at least a first type;...wherein the
> second interface database is configured to store second data received from the second
> computer system from application software of at least a second type;
>
> Claim 53: "...first and second interface databases of project objects of at least a first and
> second types of application software, respectively, in data communication with the host
> computer system;... first and second computer systems including at least said first and

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second types of application software, respectively, in data communication with the first and second interface databases, respectively; "
and ·

Claim 55: "…storing first data received from a first computer system in a second database, wherein the first computer system operates at least a first type of application software and provides construction said first data comprising objects of a first type…transmitting the first message to a second computer system, wherein the second computer system is in data communication with the host computer system and the database and operates at least a second type of application software providing construction project objects of a second type."

In the Office action, the Examiner refers to *Davies* method of storing web pages to an IPS as comprising the previously defined steps of "storing first data". (Office Action, Page 1, Paragraph no 4.) The features defined in the above claims are distinct from the teachings of simply storing web page information of a web page text which is later parsed. (*Davies*, Col 4 line 44 – Col 5, line 29).

Numerous other features alone and in conjunction with the above-referenced feature define an invention which is patentable over the prior art.

As such, reconsideration of the application in light of the newly added claims is hereby requested.

* * *

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, consideration of Claims 32-64 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.
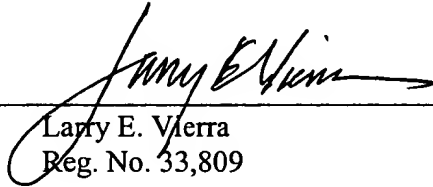
Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including today, August 26, 2002.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: __August 26, 2002__   By: _____
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